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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,607	06/27/2003	Edwin Bolduan	ZTP01P12033	2244

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EXAMINER

RINEHART, KENNETH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3749

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/608,607

Applicant(s)

BOLDUAN ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth B Rinehart

Art Unit

3749

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6/27/03. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the supporting the clothing item with an air permeable supporting surface, supporting the clothing item by a gas jet must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1-3, 11, 18, 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dobson. Dobson shows providing an item of clothing (M, fig. 1), providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas (g, fig. 2), drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion (g, fig. 2), supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas jet (B, fig. 2), supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface (B, fig. 2), moving the at least one gas jet and the clothing item relative to one another (col. 2, lines 78-86), drying the clothing item by directing the gas stream to at least one portion of the clothing item at an angle to the one portion

Art Unit: 3749

(g, fig. 2), a housing defining a treatment space (fig. 1), devices disposed in said housing for disposing items of clothing within said treatment space (b, fig. 1), a blower disposed at said housing for producing a gas flow (F, fig. 1), nozzles disposed in said housing and communication with said blower, said nozzles being aligned to direct the gas flow produced by said blower to an item of clothing in said treatment space (g, fig. 2), said nozzles are aligned with respect to one portion of the clothing item to direct the gas flow in a direction not parallel to the one portion (g, fig. 2), said nozzles direct the gas flow at an angle with respect to one portion of the clothing item (g, fig. 2).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baltes. Baltes shows providing an item of clothing (17, fig. 1), providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas (fig. 1), drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion (fig. 1).

Claims 1-3, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dahman. Dahman shows providing an item of clothing (24, fig. 2), providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas (16, fig. 2), drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion (fig. 2), supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas jet (46, fig. 2), supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface (fig. 4), providing the at least one gas jet with heated gas (16, fig. 2), the gas stream contains heated gas (16, fig. 2).

Claims 1-3, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Georges. Georges shows providing an item of clothing (12, fig. 1), providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas (4, fig. 1), drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof

Art Unit: 3749

with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion (fig. 4), supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas jet (6, fig. 2), supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface (6, fig. 2), providing the at least one gas jet with heated gas (4, fig. 1), the gas stream contains heated gas (4, fig. 1).

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujita. Fujita shows providing an item of clothing (fig. 6), providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas (fig. 6), drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion (fig. 10), supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas jet (fig. 6), supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface (112, fig. 6), supporting the clothing item with an air permeable supporting surface (fig. 6), disposing the item between two air permeable surfaces (fig. 10), supporting the clothing item by a gas jet (fig. 6), exerting gas streams from gas jets on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other having a total force on the clothing item equal in magnitude (fig. 6), providing at least two gas jets disposed on opposite sides of the clothing item and facing one another; and directing gas streams on both sides of the clothing item with a total force on the clothing item being equal in magnitude (fig. 6), exerting gas streams from gas jets on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing items in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing item with one of the gas jets having a higher force than another one of the gas jets (fig. 10), exerting gas streams from gas jets on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing item with the gas jets having substantially the same force on both sides (fig. 6),

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Georges in view of Kellerhals. Georges discloses providing an item of clothing (12, fig. 1), providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas (4, fig. 1), drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion (fig. 4), supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas jet (6, fig. 2), supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface (6, fig. 2). Georges discloses applicant's invention substantially as claimed with the exception of providing the at least one gas jet with water vapor, the gas stream contains water vapor. Kellerhals teaches providing the at least one gas jet with water vapor, the gas stream contains water vapor (19, fig. 1) for the purpose of smoothing the articles. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Georges by including providing the at least one gas jet with water vapor, the gas stream contains water vapor as taught by Kellerhals for the purpose of smoothing the articles and preventing wrinkles.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Georges in view of Baltes. Georges discloses providing an item of clothing (12, fig. 1), providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas (4, fig. 1), drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion (fig. 4), supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas jet (6, fig. 2),

supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface (6, fig. 2). Georges discloses applicant's invention substantially as claimed with the exception of varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one gas jet while drying the clothing item. Baltes teaches varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one gas jet while drying the clothing item (col. 5, lines 59-66) for the purpose of providing a more efficient and flexible system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Georges by including varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one gas jet while drying the clothing item as taught by Baltes for the purpose of providing a more efficient and flexible system to reduce electrical usage and operating costs.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baltes in view of De Pas. Baltes discloses providing an item of clothing (17, fig. 1), providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a gas (fig. 1), drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion (fig. 1), at an end of the drying step, heating the gas jet (14, fig. 1) to calendar the clothing item initially with substantially ... and heated air and then with substantially ... and non heated air (col. 6, lines 9-15). Baltes discloses applicant's invention substantially as claimed with the exception of dry. De Pas teaches dry for the purpose of recirculating the air. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Baltes by including dry as taught by De Pas for the purpose of recirculating the air to provide for a more energy efficient system.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 19 is allowed.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of art with respect to driers in general: Heyer et al (6357140), Jannach (5953830), Lehtinen (4112586), Irving (4682424).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth B Rinehart whose telephone number is 703-308-1722.

The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ira Lazarus can be reached on 703-308-1935. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.

KBR


Kenneth Rinehart
Patent Examiner
AU 3749